

Berks Co. Youth Receives Dekalb Award

The awards assembly for Twin Valley Senior High School will be the scene for the awarding of the 1975 DeKalb Agricultural Accomplishment Award. This award is presented to the senior vocational agriculture student who has demonstrated the most outstanding development in the areas of citizenship, leadership, and occupational experience program. In selecting a winner, a committee of eleventh grade vocational agriculture students considers the grades, projects, and FFA activities of the candidates.



Ronald Smoker

This year's recipient Ronald Smoker has served as chapter secretary for two years, and assistant secretary for one year. As a ninth grader he received the

Star Greenhand Award and as a senior he was awarded the Star Chapter Agribusinessman. During his first year in Vocational Agriculture he participated in the Berks County FFA Land Judging Contest, the

Berks County Wool Pool, was a livestock judge both at the Kutztown Fair and FFA activities week at Penn State. In tenth grade he assisted with the chapter window exhibit; attended the Berks County Leadership Training Conference: Operation Update, conducted by the National FFA Association at Lancaster; participated in several radio programs and the county basketball tournament. He entered the county public speaking, with a speech entitled "What Does the FFA Do for You" and received fourth place. Additionally he participated in both the county and area parliamentary procedure contests as a member of the chapter team.

As a junior he again served on the window display committee, and was a member of the conservation and float committees. He received the Berks County Degree and again participated on the parliamentary procedure team and public speaking contest. His speech entitled, "What Is Conservation" earned second place. As a senior he attended the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, was awarded the Keystone FFA Degree, and was elected to National Honor Society. He earned second place in the County speaking contest with a speech entitled, "Soybeans - Food, Feed, Future". This speech also received fourth place in the three county area contest. He has served as chairman of the chapter chicken Bar-B-Q committee for the last 2 years.

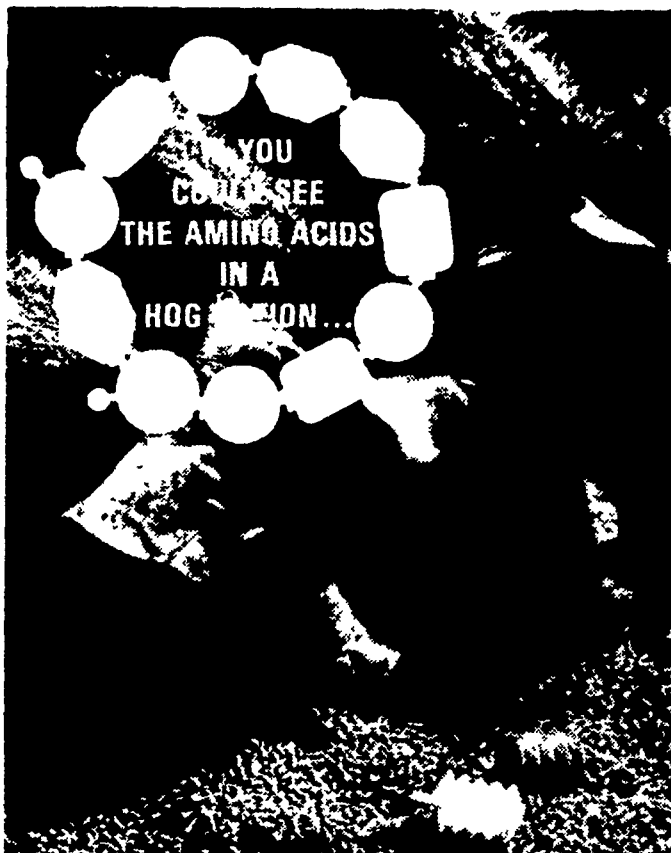
Projects are an important consideration in selecting the winner of this award and our recipient has had several successful ones. In ninth grade he had half ownership in 7 sheep, as well

as strawberries. In tenth grade he held total ownership of 8 sheep, purchased a hive of bees, and began to work at Tobi Hill Farms. He has continued these projects through eleventh and twelfth grade, and plans to continue to work at Tobi Hill Farms following graduation.

Our DeKalb Award recipient this year has been a cornerstone of the chapter for the past four years. Our winner this year is Ronald Smoker, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smoker of R.D.2 Honey Brook. The award, sponsored by DeKalb Ag Research Inc., is presented to the outstanding senior in vocational agriculture departments around the country. As this year's winner, Ron's name will be inscribed along with previous winners on a special honors plaque provided by DeKalb. Other previous winners include Terry Murry, Nevin Mast, Frank Stoltzfus and Fred Mast. DeKalb is a leading supplier of hybrid seeds, poultry and swine breeding stock and livestock marketing services.



Donna Fargo, the popular Country-Western recording star, will highlight the season's first show at Shindig in the Barn at Cripple Creek near Strasburg. Other stars who will be performing this summer will include Tom T. Hall, Lynn Adnerson and the Blue Ridge Quartet.



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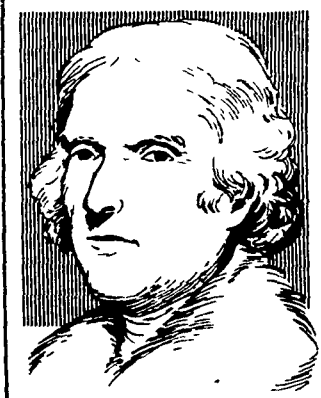
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